



Pictured in the livingroom of their home are, from left, Joyce Misiani, her twin daughters Brittney and Brigette Thompson, 4, and daughters Adriel Thompson, 23 months and Collette Misiani, 14. On the far right is Esther Nyaruri, the mother of Joyce Misiani

Once Homeless Teen returns to NCC Harmony House, Where Her Family Was Helped Back On Its Feet

For 14-year-old Collette Misiani of Newark, the days of sleeping on a basement floor seem like only yesterday. Collette's life began to unravel about three years ago shortly after her parents separated, leaving her mother to take care of her and three younger sisters.

"It was tough and painful for my mother and I more than it was for my sisters because they were too young at the time to understand what was going on," said Collette, a junior at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark.

Today, Collette, her mother and siblings are once again back on their feet and living in their own apartment with grandmother, thanks to the assistance they received from New Community Corporation's Harmony House. The family, which had been sleeping in the basement of a friend's house after they lost their own home, spent five months at Harmony House, a 102-apartment transitional living facility on South Orange Ave. in Newark. The facility offers on-site day care, individual and family counseling, educational

and employment support, all aimed at moving families toward self-sufficiency.

While living at Harmony House, Collette's mother, Joyce, 41, enrolled in and graduated from New Community's School of Practical Nursing. She now works as an LPN in New Community's Extended Care Center, a 180-bed nursing home.

"I feel very good working here because this is where we came from," she said, noting the center's location directly across from Harmony House. "These are the people who lifted us up."

After spending time at Harmony House, the family was also eventually placed in their own three-bedroom apartment in a townhouse development in Newark owned and operated by New Community Corporation.

"We here at Harmony House are delighted to have played a role in this family once again becoming self-sufficient," said Diane Young, director.

Recently, Collette decided she wanted to return to the place that gave her fam-

HUMILITY

*A man wrapped up in himself
makes a very small bundle.*

~ Benjamin Franklin

*Wash out your ego every once
in a while, as cleanliness is next
to godliness not just in body but
in humility as well.*

~ Terri Guillemets

*Humility and knowledge in
poor clothes excel pride and ig-
norance in costly attire.*

~ William Penn

*Humility is the only true
wisdom by which we prepare
our minds for all the possible
changes of life.*

~ George Arliss

*"True humility—the basis of
the Christian system—is the low
but deep and firm foundation of
all virtues."*

~ Edmund Burke

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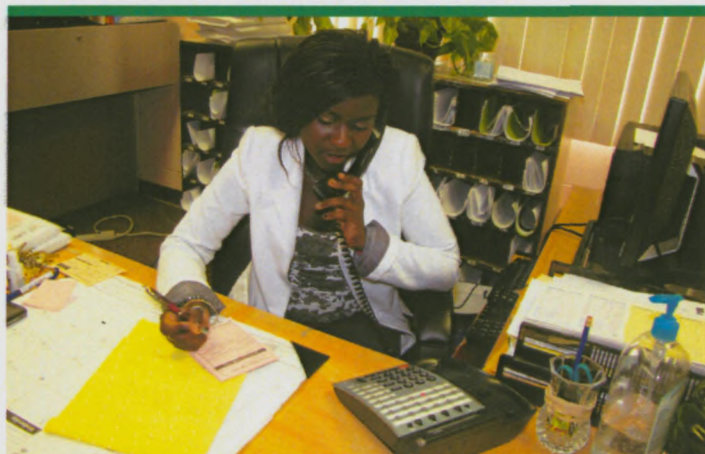
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Once Homeless Teen Returns to NCC Harmony House, cont'd.....



Colleatte Misiani working in the Harmony House office.

ily a hand-up. She spent this past summer working as a volunteer at Harmony House and was also part of a youth leadership program run by New Community.

"I owe Harmony House a lot because it encouraged me and persuaded me to work to my highest capability and aim for the best, even when we were struggling," she said. "That is why I decided to volunteer here and give back to the people who helped my family and me back on our feet."

SENIORS ON THE FAIRWAY

Participants in New Community's Adult Medical Day Care program recently enjoyed a miniature golf outing which took them to the Willowbrook Golf Center in Wayne. For some, it was the first time they had ever attempted the game.

"I can say I certainly tried. I did OKAY," said Renee Radford, who was among those taking the trip.

Linda Neal, who had played before, found herself really getting into the game, her intensity increasing with each hole.

"I had fun, it was really good," she said.

For James Hightower, another first-time golfer, the combination of perfect weather and good company helped him succeed. He said the exercise the outing provided didn't hurt either.

"I even got a hole in one," said Hightower, who offered his age at 73 years old. "I came in third place," he proudly added.

Darlene Covington, director of New Community's Adult Medical Day Care program, said she has already received requests for another miniature golf outing soon.

"We try to expose our participants to an array of activities that are also enjoyable," she said. "This outing was not only a lot of fun, but the walking and other movement involved with playing also proved to be good exercise."

The Adult Medical Day Care program is located in New Community's Extended Care Center at 266 South Orange Ave. in Newark.



James Hightower, left, watches Ozella Williams' putt during New Community's Adult Medical Day Care outing to Willowbrook Golf Center in Wayne.

Social Investment

Despite the difficult economic times, New Community Corporation is still on the move, continuing to serve.

- NCC Family Resource Center assisted 4,280 families and individuals in 2009
- NCC has more than 700 students enrolled in its charter school, two early learning centers and after-school programs.
- NCC Essex Valley Visiting Nurse Association served 2,603 individuals in 2009
- NCC Hispanic Development Corporation served more than 9,842 clients in 2009
- NCC serves nearly 1,200 seniors who need services such as home health, wellness care and meals-on-wheels

Please continue to help us meet these continuing pressing needs of the community we serve.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE DEALING WITH ALZHEIMER'S



They sit nervously in a circle, trying to find the courage to open up and share their inner most feelings and thoughts about loved ones or close friends who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

"I'm really afraid because it seems like she's digressing so quickly. I'm a little emotional," one teary-eyed woman shared about a loved one during a recent support group meeting held at the New Community Extended Care Center.

This is the only Alzheimer's support group meeting in Newark. Since it was started back in June, the numbers have been growing, according to Betty Lawson, the group facilitator and administrator of the Extended Care Center, a 180-bed nursing home owned and operated by New Community Corporation. Lawson was trained to run the support group, which is free and open to anyone, by the Alzheimer's Association.

One out of every eight people 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease and 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's or dementia are living at home and being cared for by family and friends. The challenges can be great. Group members talk about personality changes and behaviors in their loved ones that are just uncharacteristic.

"The roles have changed. I'm now like the mother and have to say, 'do this and do that,'" a woman in her 30s shared during a recent session.

This comment came from another group member: "She turned just as mean as a snake."

During the meetings, members find comfort in knowing that the situations they are facing are not at all unusual, like the person with Alzheimer's who is now refusing to take a bath. They share coping strategies and tips that can help ameliorate problematic situations.

"Remember if your loved one become combative, it's just because they are frustrated. It's nothing personal towards you. They're just dealing with something they don't know how to define," Lawson says.

Group meetings are held the last Monday of every month at the NCC Extended Care Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The center is located at 266 South Orange Avenue in Newark. For more information, please call 973 624-2020.

NCC On the Move



Monsignor William J. Linder, founder and CEO of New Community Corp, seated at head of table, meets with The Rev. Luis A. Cortés, Jr., to his right, and other members of Esperanza, founded to bring a sustained response of hope to individuals and families living in the Hispanic community of North Philadelphia. Members of the group recently toured New Community Corporation and then sat down with Monsignor for a discussion, including how some of NCC's programming could be replicated in Philadelphia.



Here, members of Esperanza, accompanied by NCC's Special Projects Director, Richard Cammarieri, standing fourth from left, listen as Ellen Boddie, director of NCC's School of Practical Nursing, explain how her students use life-like mannequins as part of their clinical training.

Anna Sing-King



As a single mother struggling to raise her then preschool-age daughter, Anna Sing King immediately felt like she had become part of a family when she joined New Community Corp. as a filing assistant in 1994.

"It was a feeling of belonging I felt at New Community. It was very family-oriented," said King, 40, a graduate of Newark's West Side High School who had earned a certificate as a legal assistant prior to joining NCC.

Cecilia Faulks, New Community's first human resources director and first full-time employee, said what impressed her most about King, even during that first job interview, was her determination and self-confidence.

"She was probably the least experienced candidate and I had actually decided to hire somebody else. But she came back after her interview and sat there and said, 'I know I can do this job if you just give me a chance.' She just seemed so sincere," Faulks recalled.

Faulks said King did not let her down, explaining that she always gave "110 percent" to whatever task she was assigned.

From that entry-level filing assistant position in the Housing Management division, King moved quickly up the ranks at NCC. Within six months, she was promoted to the position of receptionist in the Human Resources department, working directly under Faulks, who retired from NCC in 2007.

"Mrs. Faulks always encouraged us to further our education," said King, who took classes at Essex County College and Bloomfield College to bolster her on-the-job skills.

Her promotions continued. King became Human Resources Assistant and afterwards was promoted to Benefits Administrator. In 2008, she was tapped for her present position of Human Resources Manager, which put her in charge of all personnel matters and benefits for NCC's more than 600 employees.

"I always try to keep a positive mind," she said. "You have to stay focused on your goals."

King is currently completing an on-line degree in Business Management and Communications from the University of Phoenix. Recently, she oversaw the installation of a new payroll system for NCC.

"I had some late nights, but with anything new, you go through some bumps before things smooth out," she said.

King and her husband together have five children.

New Community is pleased to have an employee with Anna Sing King's level of commitment heading its Human Resources Department.

OUR MISSION

To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement.